The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

DIGEST

SB 488 Original | 2026 Regular Session | Edmonds

Present law (R.S. 17:416.16 and 416.16.1) provides for school crisis management and response plans for public schools and authorizes the collection and protection of school mapping data, including provisions for confidentiality and limited sharing of such data.

Proposed law authorizes the Dept. of Education to establish a School Safety Drone Response Pilot Program to evaluate the use of drone technology as a supplement to existing school safety and law enforcement response protocols at public schools. Proposed law also requires the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to establish criteria for school participation and authorizes the department to select a vendor to operate the program and provide drone technology.

Proposed law provides that the program shall be conducted as part of existing school crisis management and response plans. Proposed law authorizes any public school to apply, but limits participation to at least one and no more than four schools selected on a first-come, first-serve basis. Proposed law requires participating schools to provide school mapping data to the selected vendor, subject to existing confidentiality laws, and requires the vendor to enter into confidentiality agreements with the department, the school, and the La. Center for Safe Schools.

Proposed law authorizes the department to accept grants or private funding to implement the program.

Proposed law requires the department, beginning Dec. 31, 2027, to submit an annual report to the Senate and House education committees regarding the program's findings and effectiveness.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Adds R.S. 17:416.16.2)